



Vera Institute of Justice | United States Department of Justice Safe Alternatives to Segregation Initiative

Technical Assistance with the Safe and Effective Reduction of Segregation

Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) Overview

Vera works is to drive change specifically to build and improve justice systems that ensure fairness, promote safety, and strengthen communities. Vera works with others who share our vision to tackle the most pressing injustices of our day—from the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, racial disparities, and the loss of public trust in law enforcement, to the unmet needs of the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those harmed by crime and violence. Vera was developed by philanthropic donors, but utilizes a variety of funds, including federal grant dollars to provide technical assistance for key initiatives. For the Safe Alternatives to Segregation Initiative, Vera is partnered with the US Department of Justice, and now Nevada. Nevada will received technical assistance from subject matter experts across the country.

Nevada Overview

Nevada recognized the challenges associated with segregation, and submitted the grant to reduce the Department's use of segregation based on the following:

- Nevada regulations have not been updated with best practices or frameworks for the use of disciplinary segregation;
- Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) have not been modified or updated on disciplinary segregation;
- Increase in the use of solitary confinement without identified alternatives increasing the overall expense of correctional facilities;
- Lack of definitional framework for continuity and consistency in the use of practices;
- Increased number of offenders with mental illness being placed in segregation;
- Psychological impacts and increased risk to the facility, other offenders, and correctional staff; and
- Need to define clearly the data metrics to measure all incidents of segregation.

Nevada will receive technical assistance to address the following goals, which include the identification of best practices; recommendations for operational and regulatory changes; and support in implementing policy and practice.

**Nevada's Goals/Objectives:
Policy and Implementation Strategies to Effectively, Efficiently and Safely Reduce**

Segregation and Restrictive Housing Placements	
Objective for the Goals	Expected Outcomes
Objective 1: Examine the NDOC administrative structure and regulations to identify and implement policy frameworks and foundational supports to safely reduce the use of segregation; develop and implement evidence-based practices for alternative strategies for the management of correctional populations.	A policy document and framework (draft regulation) that will be approved by NDOC to allow Nevada the ability to effectively reduce the use of segregation and provide staff the tools to use alternative disciplinary methods. Approval by the Prison Board.
Objective 2: Systematic change to the structure of disciplinary segregation policies.	Identify training and professional support needed for the successful implementation of changes to the segregation policies, that ensure consistency and continuity in application.
Objective 3: Examine opportunities for changes to Nevada Revised Statutes through future Bill Draft Requests (changes to State Law), for the long term change to segregation policies.	Recommendations for changes to the current Nevada Revised Statutes; Nevada Administrative Code in compliance with federal and state regulations; as well as best practices.
Objective 4: Build in sustainable fiscal supports to expand alternative strategies for the management of correctional populations.	Reduced costs of confinement associated with segregation; which improves quality and efficiency through delivery reforms.
Objective 5: Leadership technical assistance to gain support from key personnel on system interventions and changes; Developing positive atmosphere and morale to engage staff at all levels to accept change and environment of change.	Effective communication best practices to implement policy reforms; and aligning agencies with strategic priorities.
Objective 6: Improve Data driven approaches to ensure data-driven, best-practice programming.	Development of effective performance measures.